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The Status of "*Triaenops wheeleri*" Osgood

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Since the description of *Triaenops wheeleri* Osgood, it has been suggested (Anthony, 1941) that it might be synonymous with *Asellia stoliczkana* Dobson from Penang, an island off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula. When returning from the Rush Watkins Zoological Expedition to Siam in 1949, a day's stop in Calcutta provided an opportunity to visit the Indian Museum where permission was given to examine the type of *stoliczkana*.

The type is preserved in alcohol and bears a label stating "Cat. No. 123a, Register No. 8946. *Asellia stoliczkana* Dobson, Type, Penang, (Malay Peninsula) Dr. F. Stoliczka-1871." The skin is faded, the wings are very fragile with many broken bones, the nose leaves are complete but very stiff, the tail hard, and one tibia is broken. The skull has been removed and cleaned. It is complete, but palatal branches and upper canines are separate and one lower incisor is missing.

Dobson published figures of *stoliczkana* in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1871, the Monograph of the Asiatic Chiroptera, 1876, and the Catalogue of the Chiroptera, 1878. The latter two were based on the first figure and vary in small details but the original description was never changed, the text remaining the same, though shortened. In so far as could be seen in the examination of the type, the first figure, published in 1871, is accurate.

These figures have been compared with topotypes of *wheeleri*, alcoholic specimens examined under a microscope, and no differences between the two species were noted.

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The front edge of the horseshoe is margined by a band of three leaves, one with a deep notch in the center across the middle, and one on each side. This band of leaves has below it two leaflets on each side. It agrees with Dobson's description of the horseshoe as "separated from the lip by an underlying fold of membrane; on each side of the horseshoe a double fold of membrane." Osgood stated in the description of *wheeleri* "nose leaves double, at least laterally." Tate (1941) said "There are two lateral leaflets."

The upper outer edge of the ear in *wheeleri* is doubly emarginate as shown for *stoliczkana* in Dobson's 1871 figure. The bifurcate tips on the fourth and fifth fingers are common to both species. Dobson said the third and fourth were bifurcate but the figure shows the fourth and fifth.

The measurements of *stoliczkana* agree closely with those of *wheeleri*, and sketches of parts of the skull agree in shape with *wheeleri*.

From this evidence it seems clear that *Triaenops wheeleri* Osgood is a synonym of *Asellia stoliczkana* Dobson. Peters described *Phyllorhina trifida* from Burma in June 1871, a month after Dobson's description appeared, and it is here considered a synonym of *Asellia stoliczkana* Dobson.

While the foregoing settles the specific status of this species, its generic position remains in doubt. Tate (1941) suggested that it might belong to an undescribed genus. He compared it with *Aselliscus tricuspidatus* and found it very close in external characters, except for its longer tail. Through a lapsus *wheeleri* was said to be smaller "forearm 49 mm. instead of 54 mm." whereas it is really slightly larger with a forearm of 41.6-44.0 mm. instead of 37-40 mm. as in *tricuspidatus*. Tate also found that the skull of *wheeleri* differed from *tricuspidatus* in "possessing a quite large posterior zygomatic eminence" and "in the reduced, compressed form of p2."

These points have been carefully checked and the following differences noted between *Aselliscus tricuspidatus* and *Asellia stoliczkana* (T. *wheeleri*) : the latter has slightly longer forearm and tail; three lateral leaflets instead of two; skull with more sloping rostrum and elongate canine bearing portion; upper expansion of zygoma starting about the center, higher, and with front slope slightly concave, while in *tricuspidatus* this expansion begins near the anterior end, is lower, and the front edge slightly convex; lower premolar two is more compressed by adjoining teeth and is slightly smaller.

Asellia stoliczkana agrees more closely with *Aselliscus* than with any of the other genera in the Hipposiderinae and the differences between

it and *tricuspidatus* appear more specific than generic. It is here considered as belonging to the genus *Aselliscus* and its full synonymy is:

Aselliscus stoliczkanus Dobson

Asellia stoliczkana Dobson, Proc. Asia. Soc. Bengal, p. 106, May, 1871;

Dobson, Journ. Asia. Soc. Bengal, p. 263, pl. XX, fig. 1, 1871-Penang.

Phyllorhina stoliczkana Dobson, Monog. Asia. Chiropt., p. 61, fig. a, b, 1876;

Dobson, Cat. Chiropt., p. 132, pl. 8, fig. 5, 1878.

Phyllorhina trifida Peters, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 513, fig. 1-3, June 1871;

Peters, Monatsbr. Akad. Berlin, p. 315, 1871-Burma.

Triaenops wheeleri Osgood, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 18, p. 224,

August 19, 1932-Muong Moun, Tonkin, French Indo-China; Sanborn,

Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 46, p. 56, 1933-Kweichow, China;

Anthony, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., 27, p. 80, 1941-Chipwi, Burma.

"*Asellia*" *wheeleri* Tate, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1140, p. 2 (footnote), 1941.

Type locality. Penang Island, west coast of Malay Peninsula.

Type. In Indian Museum, Calcutta, Cat. No. 123a, Reg. No. 8946; adult male, alcohol, skull cleaned; collected 1871 by Dr. F. Stoliczka.

Range. Known from Malay Peninsula, French Indo-China, Burma, and Kweichow, China.

Measurements. Type of *stoliczkanus* followed by *wheeleri* in parentheses. Forearm 39.5 mm. (40.0-43.8 mm.) ; third finger, metacarpal 29.0 (30.5-32.8), first phalanx 13.6 (14.5-14.9), second phalanx 20.2 (20.9-22.9) ; fourth finger, metacarpal 30.5 (30.6-32.8) , first phalanx 10.5 (11.8-12.3) , second phalanx 8.5 (9.0-10.5) ; fifth finger, metacarpal 25.5 (27.0-29.1) , first phalanx 12.0 (11.8-12.6) , second phalanx 9.3 (8.3-9.9) . Tibia 16.8 (18.0-19.1) ; tail 24.5 \pm (33.0-35.0) .

Skull: greatest length 14.4 mm. (14.8-15.0 mm.) ; condylo-basal length 12.5 (12.8-13.0) ; palatal length 2.0 (1.9-2.0) ; rostral width 4.5 (4.4-4.5) ; interorbital width 2.0 (1.8-1.9) ; zygomatic width 7.4 (7.4-7.5) ; width of brain case 6.1 (6.0-6.0) ; mastoid width 7.0 (7.0-7.2) ; upper tooth row 4.9 (5.1-5.1) ; mandible 8.8 (8.7-8.8) ; lower tooth row 5.2 (5.3-5.4) .

LITERATURE CITED

Anthony, H. E.

1941 Mammals collected by the Vernay-Cutting Burma Expedition. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 27, p. 37-123.

Tate, G. H. H.

1941 Remarks on some Old World leaf-nosed bats. Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1140, p. 1-11.

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